**The darkest day**

It all started on a normal Tuesday at 12:50. We were having lunch on the 22nd of February. But then it happened all so quickly, the floor started to shake violently. At first we all thought it was just another after shock as we had had more than 3000 since the 4th of September earthquake but it went on and on. We dove under our table and heard the buildings around us crashing to the ground. Luckily our search and rescue building in our city of Christchurch was new and strong. Our table was skidding across the room with us hanging on for dear life. Our filing cabinet was ripped in half as it flew across the room and the papers were strewn across the room.

When it stopped I rushed outside to see the buildings around us destroyed. Dust was in the air as the concrete buildings around us crumbled to the ground. Christchurch people were milling around the street with blank faces and gashes on their body. None knew what to do. The search and rescue all knew we had a job to do. Our cell phones were ringing madly as we are deployed to different parts of the city. My first job is at the 4 story PGC building. It looks like it has been knocked down like it has been hit by a giant knocking ball. We get started straight away, searching through the heavy rubble and find limp bodies with cuts and grazes all over them.

We can see filing cabinets slammed against walls. There are people cowering under their desks crying. We find around 60 people in that building alone. I leave the more experienced search and rescue to finish. We race to a school under a cliff and a boulder is in the middle of the main building. Luckily the school pupils knew their evacuation plan, but 1 unlucky teacher was trapped. We climbed in through the window and found the terrified teacher under a desk, we carry her out. She is not injured because of her desk. Next we speed off to a mall. The mall is dangerously unstable. We search in every room high, low, under everything that’s smashed on the ground. In the last most ruined room we find 5 people, 2 in fitting rooms, 3 under clothes racks. They are very injured so we call an ambulance. It rushes them to hospital. I feel tired but we still have lots of things to do. This is the most terrifying day ever, Christchurch will never be the same.

By Roseanna